

GRULAC STATEMENT
Committee of the Permanent Representatives Subcommittee meeting
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

Nairobi, April 27, 2023

Dear Mme. Executive Director

Dear Chair of the CPR

Excellencies,

Colleagues

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC), Nairobi chapter.

(2. United Nations 2023 Water Conference)

The Group welcomes the briefing on the United Nations 2023 Water Conference.

Access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation is a fundamental human right and is essential for sustainable development. Without water, there can be no sustainable development. However, 26% of the world's population does not have access to safe drinking water, and 3.6 billion people lack access to safe sanitation services.

The UN 2023 Water Conference has demonstrated the potential to expedite and mobilize concerted efforts toward achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6) while utilizing water as a catalyst for advancing progress across all other SDGs.

Dear Chair,

We are encouraged by the number of action oriented and inclusive voluntary commitments, which will integrate the Water Action Agenda, accelerating action to achieve SDG6, including by ensuring access to clean water and sanitation for all, improving water-use efficiency across all sectors, conserving, restoring and sustainably using water-related ecosystems, strengthening governance and institutions for water management, and increasing international cooperation and financing for water-related projects.

GRULAC looks forward to further details on the idea of appointing a UN Special Envoy to advance the prominence of water ahead of the SDG Summit in September and the possibility that comes from the Global South.

Finally, we look forward to the conversations regarding the need to strengthen the UN inter-agency coordination mechanism for water (UN-Water) and possibly revise the mandate.

(3. Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction)

The Group welcomes the comprehensive summary of the outcomes of the Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.

After six years of formal negotiations, BBNJ is a significant addition to the existing international ocean governance framework and a historic deal for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, which the agreement recognizes as the common heritage of humankind, as well as the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems and the regulation of activities that may have negative impacts on marine biodiversity.

A significant outcome of the conference was the agreement on establishing marine protected areas (MPAs) in areas beyond national jurisdiction. These MPAs will contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity while providing scientific opportunities for studying these areas.

Dear Chair,

GRULAC welcomes the recognition of this new instrument of the importance of capacity building and the transfer of marine technology to developing countries. This will enable many countries to participate in and benefit from the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

We must begin to work on implementing the BBNJ Agreement as soon as possible to secure ocean health for the benefit of present and future generations. First, we encourage all countries to ratify this instrument.

Secondly, for effective implementation, member states must develop legislative, administrative, and policy measures in cooperation with other States and stakeholders. Parties must further ensure that sufficient national, regional, and global institutional mechanisms are in place, considering capacity-building needs.

Funding for implementing the BBNJ Agreement could further advance the global capacity to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Lastly, for the BBNJ Agreement to be equitable, it must ensure in the practice that all Parties can contribute to and benefit from the conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.